

## DOINGS OF THE VAN LOONS



Not yet, but perhaps—soon

# The AUCTION BLOCK

## REX BEACH

Here we have the tale of a young woman who is thrust by her greedy and lazy family into a world of human vultures to win a fortune with her personal charms. But she surprises them all with her fine traits of character. Her struggles and constant danger are frightening, but she brings help and happiness to men and women who need it much. This is a story with strong pulse.

## SYNOPSIS.

CHAPTER I—Peter Knight, defeated for political office in his town, decides to venture New York in order that the family fortunes might benefit by the expected rise of his charming daughter, Lorelei.

In the doorway she hesitated an instant, favoring the group with her shadowy, impersonal smile. In her gaze there was a faint inquiry, for it was plain that she had interrupted a serious discussion. She came forward and rested a hand upon her father's thin, bald, bullet head. Peter reached up and took it in his own moist palm.

"We were just talking about you," he said.

"Yes?" The smile remained as the girl's touch lingered.

"Your ma thinks I'd better accept that New York offer on your account."

"On mine? I don't understand."

Peter stroked the hand in his clasp, and his weak, upturned face was wrinkled with apprehension. "She thinks you should see the world and make something of yourself."

"That would be nice." Lorelei's lips were still parted as she turned toward her mother in some bewilderment.

"You'd like the city, wouldn't you?" Mrs. Knight inquired.

"Why, yes, I suppose so."

"We're poor—poor than we've ever been. Jim will have to work, and so will you."

"I'll do what I can, of course; but I don't know how to do anything. I'm afraid I won't be much help at first."

"We'll see to that. Now, run along, dearie."

When she had gone Peter gave a grunt of conviction.

"She is pretty," he acknowledged; "pretty as a picture, and you certainly dress her well. She'd ought to make a good actress."

Jim echoed him enthusiastically.

"Pretty? I'll bet Bernhardt's got nothing on her for looks. She'll have a brownstone hut on Fifth avenue and an airtight limousine one of these days, see if she don't."

"When do you plan to leave?" faltered the father.

Mrs. Knight answered with some satisfaction: "Rehearsals commence in May."

## CHAPTER II.

Mr. Campbell Pope was a cynic. He had cultivated a superb contempt for those beliefs which other people cherish. Most men attain success through love of their work; Mr. Pope had become an eminent critic because of his hatred for the drama and all things dramatic. Nor was he any more enamored of journalism, being in truth by nature biologic, and after trying many occupations and failing in all of them he had returned to his desk after each excursion into other fields. First-night audiences knew him now, and had come to look for his thin, sharp features. His shapeless, wrinkled suit, that resembled a sleeping bag; his flannel shirt, always tieless and frequently collarless, were considered attributes of genius; and, finding New York to be amazingly glib, he took a certain delight in accentuating his eccentricities. At especially prominent premieres he affected a sweater underneath his coat, but that was his nearest approach to formal evening dress. Further concession to fashion he made none.

Owing to the death of new productions this summer, Pope had undertaken a series of magazine articles descriptive of the reigning theatrical

beauties, and while he detested women in general and the painted favorites of Broadway in particular, he had forced himself to write the common laudatory stuff which the public demanded. Only once had he given free rein to his inclinations and written with a poisoned pen. Tonight, however, as he entered the stage door of Bergman's Circuit theater, it was with a different intent.

Regan, the stage-door tender, better known since his vaudeville days as "The Judge," answered his greeting with a lugubrious shake of a bald head.

"I'm a sick man, Mr. Pope. Same old trouble."

"M-m-m. Kidneys, isn't it?"

"No. Rheumatism. I'm a beehive swarming with pains." The Judge leaned forward, and a strong odor of whisky enveloped the cellar. "Could you slip me four bits for some liniment?"

The critic smiled. "There's a dollar, Regan. Try Scotch for a change. It's better for you than these cheap blends. And don't breathe toward a lamp, or you'll ignite."

The Judge laughed wheezily. "I do take a drop now and then. See here, you know all the managers, Mr. Pope. Can't you find a job for Lottie Devine?"

"Lottie Devine. Why, she's your wife, isn't she? She's a trifle old, I'm afraid."

"Huh! She wigs up a lot better'n some of the squabs in this troupe. Believe me, she'd fit any chorus."

"Why don't you ask Bergman?"

Mr. Regan shook his hairless head. "He's dippy on types." This show's full of 'em: real blondes, real brunettes, bold and dashin' ones, tall and statelike, bluishers, shrillers, laughers, and sallowers. He won't stand for make-up; he wants 'em with the dew on. They've got to look natural for Bergman. That's some of 'em now."

He nodded toward a group of young, fresh-cheeked girls who had entered the stage door and were hurrying down the hall.

"I've come to interview one of Bergman's 'types' that new beauty, Miss Knight. Is she here yet?"

"Sure; her and the back-drop, too. She carries the old woman for scenery."

Mr. Regan took the caller's card and shuffled away, leaving Pope to watch the stream of performers as they entered, and made for their quarters. There were many women in the number, and all of them were pretty. Most of them were overdressed in the extremes of fashion; a few quietly garbed ladies and gentlemen entered the lower dressing rooms reserved for the principals.

Meanwhile he exchanged greetings with the star—a clear-eyed man with the face of a scholar and the limbs of an athlete. The latter had studied for the law; he had the drolliest legs in the business, and his salary exceeded that of Supreme court justice. They were talking when Mr. Regan returned to tell the interviewer that he would be received.

Pope followed to the next floor and entered a brightly lighted, overheated dressing room, where Lorelei and her mother were waiting. It was a glaring, stuffy cubbyhole ventilated by means of a hall door and a tiny window opening from the lavatory at the rear. Along the sides ran mirrors, beneath which was fixed a wide make-up shelf. One section of the wall was devoted to telegraph and cable forms, bearing messages of felicitation at the opening of "The Revue of 1913." A zoologist would have found the display uninteresting; but a society reporter would have revelled in the names—and especially in the sentiments—inscribed upon the yellow sheets. Some were addressed to Lorelei Knight, others to Lila Lynn, her roommate.

Pope found Lorelei completely dressed, in expectation of his arrival. She wore the white and silver first-act costume of the Fairy Princess. Both she and her mother were plainly nuptial at the appearance of their caller; but Mrs. Knight recovered quickly from the shock and said agreeably:

"Lorelei was frightened to death at your message yesterday. She was al-

after what you wrote about Adorée Demorest."

Pope shrugged. "Your daughter is altogether different to the star of the Palace Garden, Mrs. Knight. Demorest trades openly upon her notoriety—and I don't like bad women. New York never would have taken her up if she hadn't advertised as the wickedest woman in Europe, for she can neither act, sing nor dance. However, she's become the rage, so I had to include her in my series of articles. Now, Miss Knight has made a legitimate success as far as she has gone."

He turned to the girl herself, who was smiling at him as she had smiled since his entrance. He did not wonder at the prominence her beauty had brought her, for even at this close range her make-up could not disguise her loveliness. The lily had been painted, to be sure, but the sacrifice was not too noticeable; the lips were glaringly red now, but the expression was none the less sweet and friendly.

"There's nothing 'legitimate' about musical shows," she told him, in reply to his last remark, "and I can't act or sing or dance as well as Miss Demorest."

"You rest it on you and it will be satisfied—anyhow, it should be. Of course everybody flatters you. Has success turned your head?"

Mrs. Knight answered for her daughter. "Lorelei has too much sense for that. She succeeded easily, but she isn't spoiled."

Then, in response to a question by Pope, Lorelei told him something of her experience. "We're up-state people, you know. Mr. Bergman was looking for types, and I seemed to suit, so I got an engagement at once. The newspapers began to mention me, and when he produced this show he had the part of the Fairy Princess written in for me. It's really very easy, and I don't do much except wear the gowns and speak a few lines."

"You're one of the principals," her mother said, chidingly.

"I suppose you're ambitious?" Pope put in.

Again the mother answered. "Indeed she is, and she's bound to succeed. Of course, she hasn't had any experience to speak of, but there's more than one manager that's got his eye on her."

The listener inwardly cringed. "She could be starved easy, and she will be, too, in another season."

Pope resented Mrs. Knight's share in the conversation. He did not like the older woman's face, nor her voice, nor her manner. She impressed him as another theatrical type with which he was familiar—the stage mamma. He found himself marveling at the dissimilarity of the two women.

"Of course a famous beauty does meet a lot of people," he said. "Tell me what you think of our flourishing little city and our New York men."

But Lorelei raised a slender hand. "Not for worlds. Besides, you're making fun of me now. You are considered a very dangerous person, Mr. Pope."

"You're thinking of my story about the Demorest woman again," he laughed.

"Is she really as bad as you have described her?"

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Revised.

"Mamma, can me and Tommy have some cake?" asked little Ruth.

"Not unless you ask grammatical," replied her mother.

"Well, then," said she, "may I have a piece of cake?"—Dallas News.



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State of Ohio, City of Toledo, Lucas County, ss.

Frank J. Cheney makes oath that he is senior partner of the firm of F. J. Cheney & Co., doing business in the City of Toledo, County and State aforesaid, and that said firm will pay the sum of ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS for each and every case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by the use of Hall's Catarrh Cure.

FRANK J. CHENEY.

Sworn to before me this 6th day of December, A. D. 1916.

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## BILL TO SET ASIDE WILL.

H. M. Kelly and Elmer E. Roberts,

Solicitors.

State of Illinois, La Salle County, ss.

In the Circuit Court, June Term, A. D. 1917.

In Chancery, Gen. No. 21794—Bill to Set Aside Will.

Paul Egan and Dorothy Egan, by Ella Egan, their next friend, vs. Margaret Egan, Elmer E. Egan, Joseph P. Egan, Robert Egan and Christopher C. Egan.

Affidavit that the defendants, Christopher C. Egan and Joseph P. Egan, reside out of this State so that process cannot be served upon them, having been filed in the Clerk's office of the Circuit Court of said County, notice is therefore hereby given to the said defendants that the complainants filed their bill of complaint in said Court in the Chancery side thereof, on the third day of May, 1917, and that thereupon a summons issued out of said Court wherein suit is now pending returnable on the second Monday in the month of June next as is by law required. Now unless you, the said defendants above named, Joseph P. Egan and Christopher C. Egan, shall personally be and appear before the said Circuit Court, on the first day of the next term thereof, to be holden at Ottawa, in and for the said County, on the second Monday in June next, and plead, answer or demur to the said complainant's bill of complaint, the same and the matters and things therein charged and stated will be taken as confessed, and a decree entered against you according to the prayer of said bill.

J. L. WITZEMAN, Clerk.

Ottawa, Illinois, May 11, 1917.

Henry M. Kelly and Elmer E. Roberts, complainants' solicitors.

## Classified Advertising

Advertisements will be inserted in this column not exceeding five lines, one time, 10 cents; three times, 25 cents; one week, 50 cents. Each line over five, 10 cents per week additional.

All advertisements in this column must be paid in advance.

## For Rent

FOR RENT—Modern flat over Keeler & Krohnke's jewelry store. Inquire Geo. J. Gleim.

FOR RENT—A good store building, size 18x48 ft., suitable for any kind of a business; located at 501 La Salle St. For further particulars, call on or address Wm. Jamison, 729 La Salle St., Ottawa, Ill.

FOR RENT—Eight room flat, all modern conveniences. Inquire Dr. Burrows.

FOR RENT—A six room house. Modern conveniences. Phone M. N. Armstrong, Moloney Bldg.

## For Sale

FOR SALE OR RENT—A strictly modern eight-room house on Illinois avenue. Also three furnished rooms, well located. For further particulars call on or address Wm. Jamison, 729 La Salle street, Ottawa, Ill.

## Wanted

WANTED—Saturday morning at 7 o'clock 25 boys and girls, ages from 10 to 20 years, to cut asparagus. 15 cents an hour. Bring your dinner. E. Cole, the gardener. Telephone 158.

WANTED—Three teamsters Monday morning. Apply to Fred Scherer.

WANTED—A boy and girl to strip tobacco; must be over 14 years of age. Apply in person to Henry Walteker.

WANTED—Men for general factory work, all departments. J. E. Porter Co.

POSITION WANTED—Stenographer, thoroughly experienced in commercial line. Apply at this office.

WANTED—Girl for bookkeeping and office work. Apply in own hand writing. XYZ, care Free Press Journal.

WANTED—Men having some knowledge of machinery for factory work. Good pay. Wedron Silice Co., Ottawa plant.

## NOTICE.

Public notice is hereby given to the stockholders of the E. J. Reynolds Sand Company, an Illinois corporation, that there will be a special meeting of the stockholders of said company to vote upon the following question, viz.,

"Shall the board of directors of this company be increased from three to five members?"

Said special meeting will be held at the principal place of business of said company at Utica, Illinois, on June 4th, A. D. 1917, at the hour of 3:30 A. M. on said day and just prior to the regular annual stockholders' meeting of said company.

You are requested to be present at said special meeting.

JULIA C. LOVE,

HOWARD C. CARY,

CHARLES J. NIESEN,

Directors.

The most changeable of things in the world are the course of waters and the humor of women.—THUAS.

## NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS.

Sealed bids will be received for the construction of the improvement of the Down Town Pavement, etc., of the City of Ottawa, by the Board of Local Improvements and the Council of the City of Ottawa until the 25th day of May, A. D. 1917, at the hour of 10 o'clock A. M. at the city offices in the Central Life Building, in said City of Ottawa, Illinois; at which time and place said bids will be publicly opened.

It is estimated that there will be about the following amounts of work to be done and materials to be furnished:

WANTED—A position as housekeeper. Town position preferred. Call at 613 West Jefferson street.

WANTED—A good fresh milk cow. H. M. Kelly. Phone 548-K or 378-R.

WANTED—2 or 3 furnished rooms for light house keeping by June first. Address H. M. this office.

WANTED—Family washing; will do your washing at 50 cents per dozen. If you bring it and call for it. Address 823 Pine street.

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## Miscellaneous

PUBLIC SALE of real estate of deceased Daniel Jawless on premises Wednesday, May 16, at 2 p. m. H. M. Kelly.

VOCAL INSTRUCTION by Gladys W. Elliot of the London Royal academy and the Vienna Conservatoire. Moderate Terms. Studio custodian Red-dick's Library. Telephone 645-R. 2.

SEND YOUR lace, scrim and muslin curtains to be laundered early. Washed by hand, dried in the open air. All goods handled carefully. Lace curtains, full length and width 50 cents per pair narrow and short, 40 cents per pair. Muslin and scrim curtains, 35 cents per pair. Fancy and handwork, a specialty. Work guaranteed. Call 338-Y, for particulars.

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PR. E. A. KELLY, OTTAWA, ILL. 1125 Columbus St. Phone 225-Y. Silver: \$15 to \$20. Porcel. crowns. \$5. Gold crowns \$5 to \$8. Plates \$5 to \$10. All work guaranteed. First class. Office hours 8 a. m. to 7:30 p. m.

Eastbound cars leave Ottawa station for Champaign, Seneca, Morris, Minooka, Rockdale and Joliet. In a. m.—5:50, 6:45, 7:50, 9:50, 11:50.

In p. m.—1:50, 2:50, 3:50, 4:50, 5:50, 6:50, 9:00, 11:00.

Cars arrive from the west at 8:45 a. m., 7:45 p. m., 9:45 p. m., 11:33 p. m., 1:00 a. m.

WESTBOUND.

Westbound cars leave Ottawa station for Champaign, Seneca, Morris, Minooka, Rockdale and Joliet. In a. m.—5:50, 6:45, 7:50, 9:50, 11:50.

In p. m.—1:50, 2:50, 3:50, 4:50, 5:50, 6:50, 9:00, 11:00.

Cars arrive from the east at 10:50 a. m., 3:50 p. m., 12:42 a. m.

SOUTHBOUND.

Southbound cars leave Ottawa station for McKinley Park, Grand Ridge and Sreator. In a. m.—5:50, 6:50, 7:50, 9:50, 11:50.

In p. m.—1:50, 3:50, 5:50, 8:00, 11:00.

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E. F. BRADFORD, Mayor and President of the Board of Local Improvements.

W. W. CURT, City Clerk.

GEORGE L. FARNSWORTH, Public Engineer and Secretary of the Board of Local Improvements.

## Professional Cards

M. N. ARMSTRONG, Attorney at law, 210-211 Moloney Bldg., Ottawa, Illinois. Telephone: Office, 375-W. Residence, 312-Y.

L. W. BREWER, Attorney and counselor at law and solicitor in chancery. Will practice law in the several courts and in the federal courts. Special attention given to all real estate cases of La Salle and adjoining counties, including drainage questions.

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JAMES J. CONWAY, Attorney and counselor at law, office, rooms 408 and 407 Moloney Bldg., Ottawa, Illinois.

WILLIAM I. HIBBS, Attorney at law, office west of court house. Phone, Main 161.

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